

REMARKS

In the June 14, 2004, first Office Action in this application, the United States Patent and Trademark Office (hereinafter "the Office") rejected Claims 1-8, 10-14, 17, 19, 20, 22, and 23 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by the teachings of U.S. Patent No. 5,968,176, issued to Nessett et al. (hereinafter "Nessett et al."). Claims 15, 16, and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable in view of the teachings of Nessett et al., and furthermore, in view of the teachings of U.S. Patent No. 5,941,947 issued to Brown et al. (hereinafter "Brown et al."). Claim 18 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable in view of the teachings of Nessett et al., and furthermore, in view of the teachings of U.S. Patent No. 5,787,175 issued to Carter (hereinafter "Carter"). Claim 9 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claims 1 and 5 were objected to because of certain formalities.

Without admitting to the propriety of the rejections and objects of the Examiner, applicants have clarified the claims by amending Claims 1, 5-6, 11, 14, and 19, rendering the above rejections and objections moot. Claims 4, and 17-18 have been canceled. Regarding Claim 9, to understand the claim properly, the Office must appreciate that the method determines whether a user has been previously added to a group of users. If the user has already been added, the method denies the request to add the user. Therefore, the claimed language is not inconsistent or incomprehensible. Withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph is respectfully requested.

The Claims Distinguished

Applicants are unable to find and the Office has failed to show where Nessett et al., Brown et al., or Carter, each alone or in combination, teaches the subject matter of the invention. For example, applicants cannot find where Nessett et al. teaches "said second server computer is operative to provide facilities for storing and updating said network database in a manner that is visually consistent with a Web site on the first server computer" as recited in amended Claim 1. The Office pointed out that Nessett et al. makes this disclosure at column 15, lines 40-47.

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Applicants have read the cited portions of Nessett and there is nothing at the cited portions to cause the Office to come to such an erroneous conclusion. The cited portions state that "[a]ll three configurations require some sort of network access control. The WAN Access case authenticates and authorizes users before giving them access to the WAN. Those ISPs that also provide access to local resources (e.g., locally managed content, email services, Web pages) in addition to Internet access, also authenticate and authorize users before allowing them to use the local resources." Applicants are unclear about how this portions has anything to do with "said second server computer is operative to provide facilities for storing and updating said network database in a manner that is visually consistent with a Web site on the first server computer" as recited in amended Claim 1.

Applicants are also unable to find and the Office has failed to show where Nessett et al., Brown et al., and Carter, each alone or in combination, teaches "the said group of users defining a collaborative group spanning across the server computer and another server computer so as to allow users to share data," as recited by Claim 6. The Office cited portions of text from Nessett et al. at column 16, line 55 to column 15, line 3. There is nothing at the cited portions that discuss defining a collaborative group spanning across the server computer and another server computer so as to allow users to share data. The cited portions have to do with setting up a group membership on a single computer—but not defining a collaborative group spanning across multiple server computers.

Applicants are also unable to find and the Office has failed to show where Nessett et al., Brown et al., and Carter, each alone or in combination, teaches "the user being removable from the server computer when a corresponding user is removed from another server computer that issues the request," as recited by Claim 11. The Office cited Claim 49 of Brown et al. for the teaching of the above recitation from Claim 11 of applicant's pending patent application. That

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cannot be correct. Claim 49 of Brown et al. discloses the deletion of access rights list from a cache by a program module when the user disconnects from an application server. This has nothing to do with the subject matter of the present invention. The subject matter of the invention, among other features, includes "the user being removable from the server computer when a corresponding user is removed from another server computer that issues the request," as recited by Claim 11.

Applicants are also unable to find and the Office has failed to show where Nessett et al., Brown et al., and Carter, each alone or in combination, teaches "said facility including creation of a new collaborative group in which users may share data, the method refraining from creating said collaborative group if a quota has been exceeded" as recited by Claim 14. The Office cited portions of Carter at column 21, lines 50-61 as teaching the above feature of Claim 14. This is not correct. The cited portions of Carter state "[b]ecause the invention provides security through encryption and through the use of passwords that are each known only to an individual member of the collaborative group, the invention limits work group document access to those people who are expected to contribute directly to the document." It is unclear how this cited portions refrain from creating a collaborative group if a quota has been exceeded. The cited portions limit work group document access to those people who are expected directly to the document and have nothing to do with the creation of a collaborative group.

CONCLUSION

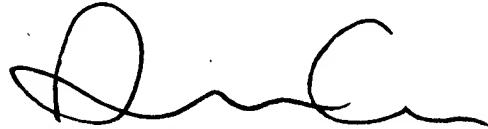
In view of the foregoing remarks, applicant submits that all of the claims in the present application are clearly patentably distinguishable over the teachings of Nessett et al., Brown et al., and Carter taken alone or in combination. Thus, applicant submits that this application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and reexamination of the application, allowance of the claims, and passing of the application to issue at an early date are solicited. If the Examiner

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has any remaining questions concerning this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the applicant's undersigned attorney at the number below.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service in a sealed envelope as first class mail with postage thereon fully prepaid and addressed to Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the below date.

Date: December 14, 2004



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